

Message Text

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R 170449Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS STATE 177703

FOR CAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MARKS/SMITH OF U.S. ADVISORY
COMMISSION.

REF: ABU DHABI 1875

1. MARKS/SMITH APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTFUL REPLY TO
STATE 16602.
2. THEY ARE AWARE THAT USG EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ABU
DHABI IS SMALL AND STATIC, SO PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PROPOSED
VISIT WOULD NOT BE TO EVALUATE IT, THOUGH THEY DID THINK IT
MIGHT BE ILLUMINATING TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM A FEW RETURNED
GRANTEES THEIR OPINION ON VALUE AND FUTURE OF EXCHANGES
BETWEEN EMIRATES AND U.S. OTHER ASPECTS OF USG PROGRAMS
WHICH THEY FELT MIGHT BEAR SOME EXAMINATION WERE UTILITY OF
AMSPECS, VOLSPKRS, AND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, AND ROLE
OF U.S. IN UNIVERSITY TO BE OPENED 1977.

3. BUT THEIR INTEREST IN EMIRATES STIRRED PARTICULARLY BY
SITUATION TOUCHED UPON IN PARAGRAPH 2 REFTEL. IT WELL
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KNOWN IN U.S. THAT OIL-RICH COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EMIRATES,

INVESTING LARGE SUMS IN EDUCATION, AND SPECIFICALLY IN

TRAINING THEIR STUDENTS ABROAD. EMIRATE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REPORTS STEADY INCREASE OF EMIRATE STUDENTS COMING TO U.S. AND PREDICTS LARGER NUMBERS IN YEARS AHEAD. MARKS/SMITH HAD THOUGHT IT WORTHWHILE DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY AND LOCAL OFFICIALS REAL OR POTENTIAL POSSIBILITIES AND PROBLEMS RAISED BY THIS SITUATION.

4. U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY IN EXCHANGES WITH EMIRATES IS ALSO SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO COMMISSION. THIS INTEREST ENHANCED BY PARAGRAPH IN POST'S EXCELLENT EVALUATION OF DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS WHICH REFERS TO GRANT TO MICHIGAN, SEMINAR WITH JOHNS HOPKINS, INVITATION FROM PRINCETON TO CULTURAL ADVISOR TO RULER, ETC.

5. MARKS/SMITH ASSUME CONDITIONS FOR EXCHANGE NOT IDENTICAL IN ALL EMIRATES, BUT SINCE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO VISIT ALL, THEY SELECTED ABU DHABI AS BEING, IF NOT TYPICAL, AT LEAST HIGHLY ILLUSTRATIVE.

6. IF ASSUMPTIONS IMPLIED ABOVE ARE INCORRECT AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT VISIT WOULD BE WASTE OF TIME FOR MARKS/SMITH OR WOULD PROVE EMBARRASSMENT TO EMBASSY, PLEASE SO ADVISE; THEY HAVE NO DESIRE UNDERTAKE IT UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS. SHOULD PERHAPS BE ADDED THAT LENGTH OF PROPOSED STAY IN ABU DHABI DICTATED MORE BY AIRLINE SCHEDULES THAN BY VOLUME OF USEFUL WORK TO ACCOMPLISHED. VISITORS DO NOT EXPECT TO BE AS MEANINGFULLY OCCUPIED FOR THREE DAYS IN ABU DHABI AS IN TEHRAN. KISSINGER

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